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By the Lord Deputie and Councell.

C A Proclamation for the reformation of the great abuses in Weights and measures, and for the due execution of the Office of his Maiesties Clarke of the Market, in and throughout this Realme of Ireland.

HENRY FALKLAND.

Hereas by the Lawes and Statutes of his Maiesties Realme of Ireland there should be but one weight and measure throughout the whole Realme : Yet neverthelesse wee are informed that there are at this day in Cities, Boroughes and corporate-Townes, and in many other parts and places of this Realme false and deceitfull weights and measures of different contents one from another, and all disagreeing from his Maiesties Standart appointed to be the rule and direction for them : And whereas we are also informed that many unconscionable persons haue and doe vse severall weightes and measures with the greater to buy, and the lesser to sell, And doe also vse false and deceitfull Beames and Ballances to the great losse and defrauding of his Maiesties Subiects, and especially of the poorer sorte, who are most sensiblie of the same : And whereas the Clarke of the Market by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, ought by his Office to enquire of the said abuses, and to punish and reforme the same, ought also to set reasonable and indifferente Rates and prices vpon victuals and other Provisions, and to foresee that the same be wholesome, and of good condition and qualitie in their severall sortes, and ought also to inflict aswell pecuniarie, as corporall punishment vpon the offendours, according to the severall qualities and degrees of their offences : And whereas complaint hath beene made unto vs of the great negligence vised in the exection of the said Office , partly, for that diuerse which are trusted as Deputies to execute the same, haue beene hitherto ignorant what their power and authoritie is, and partly because diuerse of them haue caresse and remisse, and respecting onely their owne private gaines extort vniust fees, and cyther for fauour or reward spare the offneglect the publicke seruice wherewith they are trusted. Wee therefore hauing taken the premisses into consideration, and foreseeing how entie of this Realme might be increased, and the fraudes and abuses now generally vised, in buying and selling (especially by Inne-keepers sellers) might be suppressed, if his Maiesties Clarke of the Market by himselfe, or by honest and discrete Deputies, did diligently and faithfully the exection of the said Office : And whereas desiring nothing more then by all good meanes to further and aduance the peace and plentie of his Subiects of this Kingdome, haue thought fit by this Proclamation being made and framed according to the Tenor of a Proclamation made in statu balaue, to publish and make knowne to all his Maiesties Subiects of this Realme, aswell what by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme should and ought to be performed by his Maiesties Clarke of the Market and his Deputies, as what fees they may iustly require and what courses they should hold for the better exection of their seruice, And what account wee expect, and haue determined to require at their coming this seruice hereafter,

Wee doe hereby signifie and declare that the Office of the Clarke of his Maiesties Market being a very auncient Office by the Lawes and Statutes of this Kingdome ought to enquire of all abuses, In weightes, Beames, Ballances and Measures.

It also to enquire of all faliencies, deceits and abuses in the Trades of Millers, Bakers, Brewers, Wintners, Inne-keepers, Ale-house-keepers, Mercers, Cozne-masters, Colliers, and generally of all other Artificers, Tradel-men, and other persons whatsoeuer hauing or having to do with weightes and Measures, aswell to prevent deceits and fraudes as to punish the same.

Wee doe hereby command that his Maiesties Clarke of the Market and his Deputies, doe from henceforth withall diligence execute the said Office in all places, aswell within liberties as without, in all places and partes of this Realme whatsoeuer. And that from henceforth he sessions by himselfe, or his sufficient Deputies or Deputies once in euerie yeare at the least in the severall Countys of this Realme, and in as many Countys as halfe most conuenient for the generall performance of the seruice and ease of his Maiesties subiects, & that he or they give in writing of the tyme and places when, and where their Sessions shall be helde by precept, vnder his Maiesties Seal of the said Office to the high-Constables within the Circuit of the Sessions, a conuenient time before such Sessions are to be helde, And that one or more Justices of Peace of the Countys inhabiting within the Circuit of that Sessions, or if there be no Justice of Peace resident within that Circuit, the Justice of Peace resident next to that Circuit may upon reasonable notice be present at euerie Sessions the better to assist the Clarke of the Market, and his Deputies in the execution of their office, and to see Justice equally and indifferently executed, And that his Maiesties said Clarke of the Market, and his Deputies doe diligently demand of all offenders committed within the precinct of that Sessions contrary to the Lawes and enquirable by them, And that the chiefe Constables of the Hundreds, and Petty-Constables of every Parish, and all other Inhabitants there, shall vpon their Oathes being thereunto required, give evidence to the Jury so to be Impanned.

Wee are informed that the greatest deceits and abuses are committed in Cities, Boroughes, and Townes-corporate by the chiefe Officers who ought to reforme themselves and others within their severall Jurisdictions. Wee doe hereby in his Maiesties name straiglty charge them, that they take speciall knowledge of this Proclamation, and bend themselves to a speedy reformation and correction thereof.

His Maiesties paine straightly charge and command, that his Maiesties said Clearke of the Market, and his Deputies, shall have power to trye the Lord Deputie and Counsell of such persons as shall be found remiss or contrary herein, to the end that they may be brought to justice according to their contempt shall deserve.

Item that the buyers (the poore & sorte especially) are much pinched by sleightes and deceiptes used in weighing and measuring, and his Maiesties name straightly charge and command his Maiesties said Clearke of the Market for the time being, and his deputies to make a carefull and diligent enquirie of all such falsities and deceiptes, that they suppose all hooped Measures which are or may be

in his Maiesties name straightly charge and command, That no Inne-holder, nor Hostler use any Measure of Straw or Cornell or bittur their Prouender by, nor use any Holtry measure but such as shall be seized and sealed by his Maiesties said Clearke of the Market for the time being, and every of them haue such a sealed meaure continually hanging by a Chaine at the doore of their Hostry and in their Hostries to be answerable thereunto and sealed, that so the Traveller or Passenger may not be defrauded of his due

Item weightes or measures used by any person or persons whatsoever, but such as shalbe of such matter and substance as are fit to be sealed by his Maiesties said scale of the said Office, and such as shalbe seized by his Maiesties Standard, and sealed as aforesaid by his Maiesties said Clearke of the Market, and that no person or persons whatsoever doe buy or sell by any other weight or commodities otherwise but by such sealed weightes and measures as aforesaid: And wee doe likewise in his Maiesties name and his Maiesties said Clearke of the market and his deputies, That when any offence shall be duly discovered and duely proved, they doe not neglect nor omit for any respect whatsoever to assesse reasonable fines and other punishments vpon the offendour, and qualities of their offences, and the conditions of the offendours, and the same being so assessest, that hee or they cause the same to be paid vnto the Clearke of the market and his deputies, by such wayes and meanes, as by the Lawes of this Realme are warranted and appointed, and that herein they sayle not as they will abyde his Maiesties high displeasure, and that offence herein shall deserve, and because his Maiesties said Clearke of the market and his deputies may be encouraged to execute and integrall, and may haue their just and reasonable fees allowed, and may not exact vnjust fees or rewardes to the offendours louning Subjects weee haue thought fit herewith to limitte and expresse the due fees which he or his deputies on such occasions may require and take, wherein weee haue had respect vnto such fees as haue beene lately examined, and approued of by the Officers of his highnesse Greene-clothes in England, and so remaine recorded in the counting-houle there, abating the same to be paid into Irish, a Schedule of which fees allowed by us weee haue hereunto annexed: And if it shall happen the said Clearke or his Deputies shall be sent into any of the said places, by cutting or paring, any weight or measure shall spoile or impayze the same weee hereby order and command that hee or they shall make present payment of the value thereof to the owner, or if he shall directly or indirectly exact or take any greater fees or rewardes than are expressed upon complaint made by any of his Maiesties Subjects finding themselves justly grieved therewith to be sent within the Province of Leinster, the President and Counsell in Munster and Connacht respectively, the Gouvernours where any such Gouvernor is, and where no such Gouvernor is to the Justices of Assizes in their Sessions, the partie offendour to pay the punishment, and the partie wronged shall haue speedie recompence for the same. And to the intent that his Maiesties seruice may be well maintained, wee straightly charge and command his Maiesties said Clearke of the market, that he make no deputie from henceforth, but such as shalbe able to perfore the place, and which shall not himselfe be eyther Wintner, Inne-holder, victualer or other Trades-man or selling, And that this Proclamation for the better instructing of all his Maiesties louning Subjects shall before the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary next ensuing the Date hereof, and shalbe hanged vp and preserued in every Church by the Church-wardens of every Parish to be seene and read at all times by any that will, and that the defaults of all Officers and Church-wardens in this behalfe be punished by the Justices of Assize, and Justices of the Peace in their Sessions according to their discretion as contempners of this Proclamation.

Item in his Maiesties name straightly charge and command, That all Justices of Assize, Justices of Peace, Sheriffes, his Deputies, and all Officers of Cities, Burroughs, Liberties & Townes, Constables, Chyning-men and other his Maiesties Officers and ministers in all places whatsoever, doe cause this Proclamation to be read by any that will, and further that it shalbe read by the Clearke of the Crowne openly at the Assizes in every Countie of this Kingdome respectively, and also likewise once every yeare at the generall Sessions of each Countie during the next ensuing the Date hereof, and shalbe hanged vp and preserued in every Church by the Church-wardens of every Parish to be seene and read at all times by any that will, and that the defaults of all Officers and Church-wardens in this behalfe be punished by the Justices of Assize, and Justices of the Peace in their Sessions according to their discretion as contempners of this Proclamation. Given at his Maiesties Castle of Dublin the fifth day of February. 1627.

A Declaration of the Fees due, and to be allowed to the Clearke of the Market for the execution of his Office.

In Barrell or Bushell entring the same with the owner. — iii. d. Irish
In Barrell or Bushell, for entring the same, — ii. d. Irish
Every lesser measure or weight, for entring the dwelling places of the owners thereof. — i. d.
Vicualers his name, his dwelling place, and of every particular vicualers Ale and Beere, — i. d. Irish
Inne-holders, and Vicualers name and weight or examining of every particular Inne and Beere, wine, and Hostrie measures before entring the same. — iii. d. Irish
Names and dwelling places of every Butcher, Clothier, or any other person entring of all

their weightes, measures, Ells, Yards, Beames, and Ballances, and for trying and examining of the same be they never so many. — ii. d. Irish
Item for new sealing of every Ell, or Yarde at both ends, entring the same with the names and dwelling places of the owners thereof. — ii. d.
Item for trying and examining of every Bushell or Barrell formerly sealed, entring the same with the names and dwelling places of the owners thereof. — ii. d. Irish
Item for trying and examining of every lesser measure formerly sealed, entring of the same with the name and dwelling place of the owners thereof. — i. d. Irish
Item for trying and examining of every weight and measure of any person or persons that shalbe found repugnant unto his Maiesties Standard which shal sell any commodities by a lesser weight or measure, or shal buy any commodities by a greater weight or measure to the deceit of his Maiesties Subjects. — ii. d. Irish

Thom.Cromwell.
Will.Caulfield.
Will.Parsons.
Will. Stewart.

Dom.Kilmallocke.
Henry Docwra.
Dud.Norton.

Th. Baltinglass.
Fr. Aungier.
Char. Coote.

God saue the King.